BLANDFORD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR..... 1963

Money





STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

G.B. Hopkins, M.B., Ch. B., B. Pharm, D.P.H. holding appointments of: -Senior Assistant County Medical Officer. \$ 5/11th of time. School Medical Officer.

Medical Officer of Health - Blandford Rural District.

Medical Officer of Health - Borough of Blandford Forum

Medical Officer of Health - Wimborne and Cranborne R.D.C.

Medical Officer of Health - Wimborne Minster Urban District.)

Wimborne Minster Urban District.....

Tag day per week.

CHIEF FUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR with combined duties as Surveyor: -

G.S.C. Udall, M.R.S.H. F.A.P.H.I.

A.F.S. (Eng.)

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR: -and SURVEYOR: -

M. Stockley, Cert. R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

BLANDFORD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE. 1963.

<u>VICE-CHAIRMAN:-</u>

J.F. Brown.

Miss J.M. Bickers.

Miss A.G. Biddlecombe.

K.R. Browning.

A.C. Davis.

Mrs. J.M. Guiver.

D.W. Keen.

F.H.D.Mainwaring-Burton

Capt. F. Ratsey. R.N.

C.B.C. Roe.

Major G.T.Wright.

Dr. R.M. Taylor.

Area Office,
Civic Centre,
Wimborne Minster.
Dorset.

MR. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present my Annual Report for 1963.

The list of infectious diseases is notable only for the phenomenal incidence of measles, mostly of a fairly mild nature and happily not including a case of measles encephalitis. It is easy to lose sight of the revolution in mortality amongst children from infectious diseases since the last war. The national childhood mortality from tuberculosis is now only one per cent of the 1939 figure. Pneumonia is currently accounting for only one quarter of the 1939 figure. In 1962 there were only sixteen confirmed cases of diphtheria in England and Wales, a rate of 0.3 per million, a figure not even approached by any other country except Norway, and to be compared with the two and half thousand deaths from diphtheria per year before the war.

Special mention has been made of the small areas of the District which still have a poor water supply, which contrast with the generally excellent supplies elsewhere. One minor dividend from water derived from deep bores in chalk is their very low level of contamination with strontium 90, the most important of the long-lived radioactive elements of nuclear bomb fall-out.

Special mention has also been made of the problem of the insanitary main road layby.

& B. Nipkins

SUMMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS.

Area in acres 61, 717
Population as estimated by Registrar General (mid-year) 11, 520
Rateable value at 1st April, 1963£268, 727
Product of penny rate at 1st April, 1963 £1, 010
Estimated number of inhabited houses at 31st December, 1963 3, 165.
AS SUPPLIED BY THE REGISTRAR GENERAL
LIVE BIRTHS. Total. Male. Female. Blandford. England & Administra- Rural Wales. tive County
Total number registered. 208 108 100 Legitimate 199 103 96 Illegitimate 9 5 4
Standardised rate 20.2 16.4
STILIBIRTHS
Total registered 4 1 3
DEATHS Total registered 114 57 57 Comparative Statistics. Blandford. England & Administrative County. Rural Wales. tive County.
Standardised rate

COMPARABILITY FACTORS

SECTION A

FUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY

The Public Health Laboratory is situated in Dorchester and is providing an excellent free service. During the year a bacteriological survey of meat in abattoirs and butchers' shops was continued and an interesting report is anticipated in 1964 giving the combined findings of this and several other laboratories.

AMBULANCE FACITITIES.

The Ambulance Service is provided by the Dorset County Council.

Control is centralised in Dorchester and the service operates from

Castleman House.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES.

Dorset County Council provided an Infant Welfare Clinic fortnightly. During the Autumn this clinic was transferred to the new Health Centre in Blandford Forum, where a variety of other services will be provided in due course in attractive modern surroundings.

HOME HELP SERVICE.

A local organiser attends to the detailed administration of this valuable service.

SECTION B PREVALANCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Measles	433
Pneumonia	18
Tuberculosis	3
Whooping cough	6
Scarlet fever	1
Dysentery	5
Erysipelas	1

MUMBER OF CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS ON REGISTER.

PULMON: RY		NON-PULMONARY	
Males	15	Males	2
Females	9	Females	3

	CAUSES OF DEATH	Male.	Female.
	·		
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	2	1
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	5	- '
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	1 8
孔。	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	4	8
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	1
16.	Diabetes	-	2
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	3	8
18.	Coronary Disease, angina	15	14
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	-	2
20.	Other heart disease	5	9
21.	Other circulatory disease	4	1
23,	Pneumonia	1	3
24.	Bronchitis	5	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-
31.	Congenital malformations	1	-
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3	5
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	5	-
34.	All other accidents	1	. 1
	TOTAL	57	57

ADMINISTRATION.

The enforced confinement of the inspectors to the office during the ten weeks of exceptional wintry conditions enabled them to catch up with arrears of office work. Nevertheless, over the year there was no reduction in the number of visits made, which demonstrates that the work of the department continues to increase.

It is very well known that where combined appointments of public health inspector/surveyor are made there is an inevitable tendency for the exigencies of the work to promote attention to the surveying side of the department's work to the partial exclusion of the public health work. This problem has not formerly been serious owing to the keen interest of the Chief and Additional Public Health Inspector/Surveyors in their public health functions, but it has now become a losing battle, the surveying work having increased gradually over the years. The analysis of functions now reveals that the ratio of work, Surveyor's/Public Health Inspector's is as 67 to 33, a marked preponderance in favour of the surveying aspects of the work.

The ratio in 1961 was 56: 44.

FILTHY AND VERMINOUS PREMISES AND PERSONS

No such cases were reported.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1960.

These regulations very briefly may be summarised as dealing with four aspects of the sale of food, namely, structure of premises, methods of handling, cleanliness of personnel, and cleanliness of equipment. Initial visits can correct defects of structure with a good prospect of this aspect remaining satisfactory for years without further visits, but the other three aspects are capable of wide fluctuation over very short periods and can be effectively supervised only by regular ad hoc visits. These have not been possible owing to the general pressure of work.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 NATIONAL ASSISTANCE AMENDMENT ACT, 1951

No action was necessary under these Acts.

One elderly octogenarian was seen during the severe cold winter. one of those oft seen indomitable old persons determined to grit their teeth and retain their independence to the last. Both she and her cottage Were desperately cold but all attempts to persuade her to go into the local cottage hospital by your Medical Officer of Health and her own Doctor were met with refusal. She collapsed 24 hours later and died in hospital from heart failure and subnormal temperature. The case illustrated the dangers to old people of living in properties too large or difficult to heat adequately, a problem which received national publicity after this abnormally severe winter. Old people's temperatures can very slowly drop to abnormally low levels without any personal insight into this state, which is as insidious as, but much less quick than, coal gas poisoning, dulling the old person's sensibility, and sometimes reaching a point of no return. Suitable accommodation and sufficient fuel are the basic answers. Those old folk lucky enough to live in the Elderly persons' Bungalows provided by the Council are well situated to avoid these risks though even they may be reluctant to spend quite enough of their meagre funds on fuel, but here a watchful warden can intervene. Perhaps complete central heating under the control of the warden is the ideal and there may be a good case for such a venture at full economic rents, for those old people of small private means who are burdened with too large a house, and would welcome cutting their committments and responsibilities if aided to do so.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Comprehensive information has been given in previous years, and special mention need be made of two supplies only. The Bryanston bore was described in my last report, and gave serious trouble during the year when bad samples were found in raw and distributed water. Chlorination was very quickly increased but bad samples were still obtained and it was quickly revealed by the Board's chemist that an unusual and sudden deterioration had taken place and sufficient pollution was present to completely take up the relatively high level of chlorination.

Urgent steps were then taken to obtain new chlorination plant and in the meantime the population affected was advised to boil all water for drinking and culinary use. This warning was soon removed when breakpoint chlorination was established. The Board decided to press ahead as a matter of urgent priority with a scheme to provide water to this area from the new development at the Black Lane sources. Bryanston bore will be abandoned within a year or two. Subsequent to this incident, routine testing has revealed satisfactory results but much supervision is required for this small bore at Bryanston, the yield of which does not merit the difficulties experienced.

Mention has previously been made of the consistently bad samples obtained from several premises in the Thornicombe area.

The Council made application to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in April, 1954, for permission to extend the Winterborne Valley water supply to this area. There was currently a restriction on capital expenditure, and shortly afterwards the Ministry of Agriculture approved a private farmers proposal to instal a supply subject to quality and quantity being satisfactory. The installation of this private scheme had the effect of making the Council's scheme for the remaining properties prohibitively expensive and it was abandoned. By October, 1960, twenty three samples of the private farm supply authorised by the Ministry of Agriculture had been examined by the Public Health Laboratory and only four had been reported as satisfactory.

The areas Park Hill, Charlton Marshall, Birch Close and Thornicombe are often short of water, Park Hill being fed via a small pipe from the Charlton Marshall mains, Birch Close and Thornicombe from various unsatisfactory private supplies. A few isolated premises in this area would be out of reach of any mains supply. Small private chlorination plants are seldom satisfactorily maintained and are not in practice an effective answer to the problem of sterilising supplies from small bores in rural areas.

Samples submitted for Bacteriological examination. Distributed Water.

	Satisfactory.	<u>Unsatisfactory</u> .	Totals.
Water Board Supplies	38	1	3 9
Private Supplies and Wells.	21	24	45
Totals	59	25	84

STATEMENT OF WATER SUPPLIES IN THE DISTRICT AS ON THE 31st DECEMBER, PARISH Total Number of 1963. Water. Houser. Council Houses. On Mains On Private Supply. Blandford St. Mary. 144 Bryanston.....119 Charlton Marshall..253 Farnham..... 65 Iwerne Courtney....134 Hilton......138 Langton Long..... 85 Milborne.....218 Milton Abbas193 Pimperne397 Spettisbury......148 Stepleton..... 12 Stourpaine.....164 Tarrants. Crawford......11 Gunville Hinton Keyneston Launceston 25 Monkton Rawston • • • • • • • • Rushton, 37 Turnworth..... 25 Winterbornes. Clenston Houghton 52 Kingston128 Stickland......157 Whitechurch......137 Zelston..... 2,948

An analysis of conditions by parish is given: -

PARISH	Sewer.	Drainage to Cesspool.	Earth Closet.
Anderson	_	21	2
Blandford St. Mary.	122	18	
Bryanston	88	26	4 5
Charlton Marshall	41	168	41.
Chettle		30	7
Durweston,	30	53	23
Farnham	9	28	2 8
Iwerne Courtney	123	10	1
Hilton	24	84	30
Langton Long	46	38	i
Milborne	203	8	7
Milton Abbas	149	40	
Pimperne	372	15	4 6
Spetisbury	iı	110	27
Stepleton	_	12	<u> </u>
Stourpaine	33	111	20
T. Crawford	_	10	1
T. Gunville	26	30	36
T. Hinton	14	42	3
T. Keyneston	12	52	5
T. Launceston	_	23	2
T. Monkton	-	40	-
T. Rawston	_	18	_
T. Rushton	-	31	6
Turnworth		8	17
W. Clenston	-	18	<u> </u>
W. Houghton	-	36	16
W. Kingston	45	56	27
W. Stickland	46	90	21
W. Whitechurch	19	63	55
W. Zelston	-	32	5
TOTALS	1,413	1,325	407

MILBORNT AND MILTON ABBAS.

As reported during the year the plant at Milborne needed some renewal of parts. The position regarding sludge has been more serious than ever before and become an embarrassment during the late Autumn. This was in part due to inadequate drying resulting from clogging up of the beds and also the large amount of solid matter gaining access to the sewer from farmyards. Further investigations are being carried out. Apart from a few houses on which there are demolition orders, all houses within reach of the sewer are now connected.

PIMPERNE.

A number of serious leaks in the sewer were discovered and repaired during the year but when the springs rose late in the year, more leaks were made evident by the increased flow. This time, however, the pumps were able to deal with it. Two serious chokes occurred which required special equipment, and were cleared by Contractors.

The Shroton Works have given no trouble during the year, although the prolonged hard frosts early in the year made things difficult for the workmen. Further frost protection has now been carried out. All sludge produced is being easily disposed of on site. Further properties were connected to the sewer, and proposals have already been approved for others. Other action may be required to be taken regarding the remaining few.

PIMPTRNE (Salisbury Road)

All the work to this sewer extension was completed during the year and all the properties in the area connected to the sewer. No new buildings have been crected.

BLANDFORD ST. MARY

This small sewerage scheme continues to function in a satisfactory manner and no new properties have been built.

GENERALLY.

No site work has been done in connection with the proposed Stourpaine-Durweston scheme, but an extension of the housing site at Stourpaine was catered for by an extension of the existing small sewage works as a temporary measure.

The Letton area of Salisbury Road has been mentioned before. The major extension of the Black Lane water source, the vortex of which embraces Letton, lends further support to the need for sewerage of this area.

HOUSING.

New houses completed during the year: -

(1)	(a) (b) (c)	With State Assistance for rehousing
(2)	(a) (b)	By other persons: - With State Assistance
New hou	ers comm	enced during the year but not completed:-
(1) (2)		By Local Authority
Housing	inspect	ions: -
(1) (2)		Total number of dwellings inspected for housing defects.63 Total number of houses found to be so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation 7
(3)		Number of houses found not to be in all respects fit for habitation21

HOUSING (Contd.) Housing Action: -Number of dwellings rendered fit after informal action..... Houses demolished. Nos. 7 and 9 Southolme, Stourpaine. No. 3 Southolme, Stourpaine. Nos. 18,20 and 22 Havelins, Stourpaine. Old Post Office, Winterborne Houghton. Nos. 16,17 & 18 High Street, Spetisbury. Two cottages, Thornicombe. No. 3 Buggs Row, Blandford St. Mary. Properties on which Demolition Orders made (not necessarily during 1963) and not complied with. 2 Cottages, Long Close, Milton Abbas. Void. Cottages, Blandford Hill, Winterborne Whitechurch. Void. Austins Cottage, Winterborne Zelson. Occupied. Cottage, Church Hill, Milborne. Occupied. 17, Southolme, Stourpaine. Nos. 17 and 19, Little England, Milborne. Void. (Closing Orders) Cottage, Little England, Milborne, occupied by Mr. Biles. Yew Tree Cottage, Winterborne Whitechurch. Void. Nos. 4 and 5 Priory Terrace, Pimperne. 1,2 & 4 Buggs Row , Blandford St. Mary. Undertakings previously accepted and now cancelled upon renovation of properties. Cottage, next to Chapel, Winterborne Kingston Chime Cottage, Tarrant Gunville. Reads Cottage, Blandford St. Mary. 41 Manor Road, Stourpaine. Statutory Notices.

Dairy House, School Lane, Blandford St. Mary. Notice served in 1962 but work not yet done.

Overcrowding.

No cases of overcrowding were found during the year.

REFUSE AND SALVAGE.

The new Farnham tip has been found extremely useful and is saving time in otherwise long hauls to Winterborne Kingston. The purchase of sleepers has helped considerably in the roadway on to the tips.

It must again be emphasised that the present tips have a continually shortening life and a new one on a controlled tip basis is becoming urgently required.

REFUSE AND SALVAGE (Contd)

Preliminary steps were taken to examine the possibility of a joint controlled tip with Blandford Forum. Such a development could be advantageous to both Councils and facilitate the use of modern methods of disposal which are much less objectionable than the old methods.

Salvage figures were again very low, due mainly to the long hours on collection, but this cannot be remedied until the new larger capacity vehicle is in use. No waste paper was sold during the year for the first time since salvaging was started and the present figures are due entirely to the sale of scrap metal and rags.

The figures for the year are: -

 Waste Paper
 Nil

 Rags
 £18. 1. 6.

 Non-ferrous metals
 £32. 9.10.

 Scrap iron
 £27.12.11.

£78. 4. 3.

GRANTS

There was a marked decrease in the number of discretionary grants during the year, six applications against eighteen for the previous year. The total number of dwellings involved were nine as compared with the previous eighteen. The average grant per dwelling fell from £316 to £288.

Standard Grant applications fell from forty-two to thirty-two, and the average grant per house also fell from £146 to under £140.

The majority of all applications were for owner-occupied dwellings.

Discretionary Grants.

Amount allocated £2,589 or £287.13.4 per property.

Standard Grants.

NUISANCES AND COMPLAINTS.

There was an increase in the number of complaints from 36 in 1962 to 58 in 1963 and the table shows the variety. The majority of the complaints were dealt with by informal action. A noise nuisance was abated following a visit to a factory where a paging system made too much noise; a manure heap which had been causing complaints for years was eventually removed to another part of the farm. Pig-keeping again gave rise to complaints. The number of visits altered very little from 1962.

NUISANCES AND COMPLAINTS (Contd.)

Members of the motoring public especially have complained about the insanitary state of the main road laybys within the district, a report upon which was made to the Public Health Committee, with special reference to the type of litter bin provided and the foul conditions created by motorists in the absence of sanitary provision. These conditions became so bad that the rodent officer objected to the unpleasantness of his task in dealing with the rats attracted to the sites. This problem, which is perhaps seen at its worst in the South West owing to the number and duration of holiday journeys from very populous areas of the country, journeys which often involve overnight camping almost entirely without facilities, is overdue for action on a National scale. The Continent has in the past sometimes shewn us the way ahead and has done so to some extent in this respect by vigorous and organised steps to provide amenities for campers, and similar steps are urgently required in this country. Many laybys in the South West could very profitably be laid out as overnight camp sites with full amenities, others with partial amenities, and the remainder posted with information on facilities within daty range.

In the absence of such provision the increasing numbers of forcign tourists will lead to increasing numbers of Europeans puzzled by the paradox between what they have heard about the state of public health provision in this country and what they see for themselves.

It would be in the interests of many district councils to act as agents and caretakers for the Ministry of Transport since there appears to be no reason why rural councils should bear heavy expense to provide facilities for large numbers of motorised migrants to the south western resorts.

CARAVANS

The two multiple sites in the district continue to be operated satisfactorily

The Winterborne Whitechurch site is now virtually completed and will be taking its

maximum number of caravans early in the New Year.

The single caravan sites were maintained in a satisfactory conditions.

Reports have been received from operators in Dorset confirming our own observations that rats and mice have been far more numerous in 1963.

It is interesting to note that the early cold weather may have killed off many animals and birds but this provided the rat population with more food to enable them to live under the snow out of reach of other predatories. Consequently there were more rats available for breeding and the long, mild weather which produced a poor harvest also provided further food in the open, where again the rats were less vulnerable.

Notifications were more numerous than in previous years and far more baits and poisons were needed to deal with the situation. The year closed with the situation a little worse than at the beginning.

- 405 premises were surveyed under the provision of the Damage by Pests Act.
- 192 treatments were carried out.
- 1,114 visits were made for all purposes.

Insects Pests.

There were very few complaints of wasps and bees during the year but we received a number of complaints of dwellings being invaded by a small black beetle usually found in the open. Liquid and powder insecticides were used to good purpose.

LAND DRAINAGE ACT, 1961

Once again no flodding occurred in the district, despite the very heavy falls of snow in January and February. The thaw which followed was very slow and this prevented what might otherwise have been a serious state of affairs.

It is now evident that the reminders sent out by the department advising

Landowners to clear the streams bordering their properties are having no effect

since there is no statutory requirement to notify or comply with them.

The Autumn springs were late this year, not very pronounced, and no flooding occurred as a result.

Two cases of river pollution have been investigated in co-operation with the River Board.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS.

(1)

Now that the chance of contracting bovine tuberculous from milk has been practically eliminated, there may be a tendency for the general public to believe that milk is now free from risk. In practice it is so when efficiently pasteurised, but not in the raw state. Brucellosis is mot uncommon amongst dairy cows and though the disease manifests itself in man infrequently, it can be very serious when it does. Other diseases can also be contracted from raw milk, ranging from the exotic (Q fever) to the mundane (staphylococcal, streptococcal and salmonella infections) Pasteurised milk remains very good food, of which at least one age group probably takes insufficient, namely the aged.

ANALYSIS OF COMPLAINTS.

Housing Drainago Infestations Keeping of animals Water Miscellaneous. Rights of Way Oil on water Refuse Noise	14 2 8 4 10 2 1 4
Noise	•
	

FACTORITS AND WORKSHOPS.

Inspections for purpose of provisions as to health:-

	No. on	I	No. of writte	en Occupiers	
Premises.		Inspections.		Prosecuted.	
(1) Factories in which Sections					
1,2,3,4 & 6 are enforced by					
Local Authorities	32	33	-	-	
(11) Factories included in (1)					
in which Section 7 is enforced	- 0	- 0			
by Local Authority	_ 18	18	-	-	
(iii) Other premises in which se	C•/				
is enforced by Local Authority					
(excluding outworkers premises)	50	<u>-</u> 51	-	-	-
(2) Cases in Which defects Were					-
(-)	J = 0 0411068				

Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted...... Nil.

Two new factory premises were completed during the year and one other commenced.

SUMMARY OF VISITS.

Nuisances and Complaints	58
Housing Acts	547
Food Premises	77
Building Byclaws	.1110
Water Supplies	. 64
Water Samples	. 90
Drainage	. 307
Refuse and Salvage	. 182
Pactories and Workshops	. 33
Rats/Mice	. 7
Rights of Way	. 12
River Pollution	. 38
Sewerage Schemes	. 296
Sewerage Samples	. 4
Petroleum	. 44
Infestations	. 5
Caravans	. 101
Miscellaneous	. 39
Meetings	. 80
Planning	. 169
Keeping of Animals	. 16
Diseases of Animals	. 5
Dangerous Buildings	. 8

3,292



